

GUIDE TO VALIDATING TECHNICIAN AUTHORITY IN HEALTH CARE FACILITY PHARMACIES

In 2011, Board rule [21 NCAC 46.1418](#) created a category of “Validating Technicians,” authorized in in-patient hospitals only, to validate certain tasks completed by other technicians. Effective May 1, 2026, amendments to the rule: (1) expanded the facilities in which “Validating Technicians” may practice; (2) created additional pathways to qualify as a Validating Technician; and (3) expanded Validating Technician authority.

Q. Where may Validating Technicians practice?

A: Validating Technicians may now practice in any health care facility pharmacy, which means a pharmacy providing services to “one of the following organizations whose primary purpose is to provide a physical environment for patients to obtain health care services: hospital, long-term care facility, mental health facility, drug abuse treatment center, assisted living facility, ambulatory surgical center, penal institution, or hospice.” [21 NCAC 46.1317\(7\) & \(8\)](#)

Q. What qualifications are required for Validating Technician status?

A: All Validating Technicians must be registered with the Board and hold national certification. [21 NCAC 46.1418\(a\)\(1\)&\(2\)](#)

A Validating Technician may qualify for that credential by holding an associate’s degree in pharmacy technology. [21 NCAC 46.1418\(a\)\(4\)\(A\)](#)

A Validating Technician may also qualify for that credential by holding a current Advanced Certified Pharmacy Technician (CPhT-Adv) credential from the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB), as well as a current PTCB Technician Product Verification Certificate, either as part of or in addition to the CPhT-Adv credential, is eligible for Validating Technician status. [21 NCAC 46.1418\(a\)\(4\)\(B\)](#)

To perform certain compounding validating tasks, a PTCB-credential qualified Validating Technician must hold additional compounding certifications. These requirements are discussed below.

Q. What tasks are Validating Technicians authorized to validate?

A: Validating Technicians may validate these functions at a health care facility pharmacy:

- Stocking of patient care unit medication inventories;
- Stocking of ancillary drug cabinet inventories;
- Stocking of automated dispensing or drug supply devices;
- Stocking of emergency kits;
- Prepackaging of prescription drugs within the Health Care Facility pharmacy;
- Selection of the correct dose by an automated medication system that has been stocked and restocked in compliance with [21 NCAC 46 .3404](#) if a pharmacist has performed a drug regimen review to ensure that dispensing the order is safe and effective for the patient, that the requirements of [Board rule .1414](#) governing auxiliary medication inventories in health care facilities have been met; and the order has not changed following the drug regimen review;
- Preparation of a product by an automated compounding device. To perform this task, a PTCB-credential qualified Validating Technician must hold a current PTCB Certified Compounded Sterile Preparation Technician credential. An associates degree-qualified Validating Technician does not have to hold this credential.
- Preparation and repackaging by other registered pharmacy technicians of non-sterile low-risk products that are compounded in multi-patient volume and whose composition does not vary by patient. To perform this task, a PTCB-credential qualified Validating Technician must hold a current PTCB Nonsterile Compounding Certificate, either as part of or in addition to the CPhT-Adv credential. An associates-degree-qualified Validating Technician does not have to hold this credential.